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Alphand has informed us that Couve continues to oppose tripartite note even to FEDREP since this might still appear as sign of fear or nervousness. French stress they have no difficulties with substance of proposed note. Couve also told Alphand that if communication intended for Adenauer it would look rather peculiar coming less than forty-eight hours before de Gaulle visit to Chancellor, but he could not agree send note even to Foreign Office for reason indicated.

Alphand said however that he could appreciate concern of US over recent reports of Allied lack of unity on Berlin. He thought therefore in Washington if US wished to go ahead and issue communique/along lines proposed note in ~~including~~ sentence could be added saying that, after consultation,

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US in

Drafted by:

EUR:GER:MHillenbrand:all 11/24/58

Clearances:

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Telegraphic transmission and
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US in complete agreement with French and British Governments.

We find this frustratingly negative attitude, and hope Embassy Paris can persuade Foreign Office to lift objection. If in end French view unchanged importance of maintaining unity such that we would feel obliged to give up attempt. However if Germans feel strongly enough in favor of proposed note they may wish to discuss with French during de Gaulle meeting and we would still be prepared to go ahead if Soviet proposals ~~would~~ not made.

FOR AMBASSADOR BRUCE:

German Embassy representative given copy of text proposed note informally by Departmental officer. Pertinent portion of unclassified memorandum of conversation between Murphy and Grewe regarding note being sent separate message.

Dulles Phillips
(RAC)

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10/7/62